

Response To Office Action Mailed March 25, 2003

A. Pending Claims

Claims 187-276 are currently pending. Claims 200-202, 211, 212, 216, 217, 225-227, 236, 237, 248-250, 259, 260 and 262 have been amended. The claims have been amended for clarification and/or correction of typographical errors. Claims 277-282 have been cancelled without prejudice.

B. Restriction

Applicant hereby elects the claims of Invention I, namely claims 187-276 drawn to a connector, classified in class 606, subclass 59, without traverse. Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications capturing the subject matter of the non-elected species.

C. Election of Species

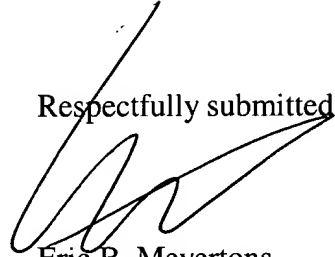
In the Office Action, the Examiner states: "Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable." Applicant elects species 3, shown in Figure 6, described in claims 187-276, without traverse. Applicant submits that Figure 19 and Figure 21 are different views of the embodiment shown in Figure 6. The generic name of the species is "transverse connector with three adjustable degrees of freedom".

D. Additional Comments

Applicant requests a one-month extension of time. If any further extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. Applicant has enclosed a Fee Authorization for the one-month extension of time fee. If any additional fees are required or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons,

Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5259-04900/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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